Total & Retail Trade Employment
The District of Columbia
1978-1988
(annual averages-in thousands)

	TOTAL JOBS	TOTAL RETAIL	GEN. MDSE.	EATING & DRINKING	OTHER
1978	596.3	51.6	7.8	21.5	22.3
1979	612.5	52.5	7.3	22.5	22.8
1980	616.1	51.8	6.7	22.7	22.4
1981	611.0	51.7	6.3	23.5	21.8
1982	597.9	49.7	5.9	22.8	21.0
1983	596.6	49.1	5.1	23.0	20.9
1984	613.8	52.7	5.1	25.8	21.8
1985	629.0	53.2	5.0	26.0	22.3
1986	640.0	53.6	4.8	25.9	23.0
1987	655.6	54.1	4.1	26.8	23.2
1988	673.1	55.9	4.5	27.5	23.9

SOURCE: Department of Employment Services, Labor Market Information Staff. Current Employment Statistics (CES) program.

The Department of Employment Services
District of Columbia Government
Marion Barry Jr., Mayor

Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Areas

In April 1989, the Bureau of Labor Statistics ranked 257 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) by preliminary unemployment rates. As usual, the Washington Area's jobless rate declined slightly between March and April. The April rate fell 0.1 percentage point to 2.7 percent. This was the fifteenth lowest of all 257 areas reporting. A year ago, the rate was 3.0 percent.

Comparing the Washington Area with other large metropolitan areas nationwide, the Washington Area's rate at 2.7 percent was the lowest of all the major metropolitan areas. The Boston Area rate was down from 3.3 percent in March to 3.1 percent in April. A year ago, Boston's rate was 2.5 percent. The Washington and Boston Areas have had the lowest jobless rates of the major metropolitan areas over a period of four years. The Richmond-Petersburg Area, 110 miles to the south of Washington, posted an April rate of 3.2 percent down from 3.9 percent recorded in both February and March. A year ago, the Richmond-Petersburg rate was 3.4 percent. The Baltimore Area, only 35 miles north of Washington, posted a 4.2 percent jobless rate down from 4.4 percent recorded in March. A year ago, Baltimore's rate was 4.9 percent.

Of the 257 metropolitan areas for which April data are available, 56 had over-the-year decreases in their unemployment rate of 1 percentage point or more, and 24 had increases of that magnitude. Seventy-one areas had rates below 4 percent, while 26 had rates of 8 percent or higher.

Unemployment Rates in Selected Major Metropolitan Statistical Areas*

MSA	APRIL	
	1989*	1988
1. Washington, D.C.	**2.7**	**3.0**
2. Boston, MA	3.1	2.5
3. Richmond-Petersburg, VA	3.2	3.4
4. Indianapolis, IN	3.3	4.5
5. Philadelphia, PA	3.4	3.6
6. San Francisco, CA	3.4	3.4
7. Milwaukee, WI	3.5	3.8
8. Newark, NJ	3.8	3.2
9. Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN	3.8	3.0
10. San Diego, CA	3.9	4.0
11. Nashville, TN	4.1	4.3
12. Cincinnati, OH	4.1	5.1
13. Baltimore, MD	4.2	4.9
14. Portland, OR	4.3	5.0
15. Pittsburgh, PA	4.3	5.5
16. Los Angeles, CA	4.3	4.3
17. Oakland, CA	4.4	4.4
18. Columbus, OH	4.4	4.9
19. Cleveland, OH	4.4	5.6
20. Seattle, WA	4.5	4.9
21. Oklahoma City, OK	4.5	5.0
22. Phoenix, AR	4.5	5.1
23. Salt Lake City, UT	4.8	5.2
24. Kansas City, MO	4.8	5.1
25. Memphis, TN	4.9	5.0
26. St. Louis, MO	5.2	6.0
27. Atlanta, GA	5.2	5.4
28. Sacramento, CA	5.2	5.2
29. Louisville, KY	5.3	6.5
30. Chicago, IL	5.3	6.9
31. Jackson, MS	5.4	4.8
32. Dallas, TX	5.6	5.6
33. Birmingham, AL	5.6	5.6
34. New York, NY	5.7	3.6
35. Montgomery, AL	5.7	5.7
36. Detroit, MI	5.9	7.4
37. Miami, FL	5.9	5.6
38. Houston, TX	6.1	6.7
39. Denver, CO	6.1	5.9
40. Buffalo, NY	6.6	4.2
41. New Orleans, LA	8.4	8.9

*Preliminary unemployment rates.

States

When the District of Columbia (with an April preliminary unemployment rate of 6.1 percent) was ranked with the 50 States, the District had the eleventh highest jobless rate in the country. This was up considerably from March. Virginia's rate at 3.3 percent was down from the 4.1 percent posted in March. Maryland's rate was also down from 4.0 percent to 3.8 percent. Virginia and Maryland ranked forty-second and forty-seventh, respectively, in the standings of the 51 jurisdictions. A year ago, the rates in Virginia and Maryland were 3.8 percent and 4.5 percent, respectively.

Ten states reported over-the-year declines of 1 percentage point or more in their unemployment rate. The largest declines were in Alaska (2.4 percentage points), West Virginia (2.2 points), and Kentucky (1.8 points). There were over-the-year increases of more than 0.5 percentage point in the District of Columbia and eight states. New York experienced the greatest increase (2.2 percentage points), followed by Mississippi (1.3 points) and Vermont (1.1 points).

Twelve states had April unemployment rates below 4 percent. The states with the lowest rates were New Hampshire (2.7 percent), Nebraska (2.8 percent), and Connecticut and Delaware (both 2.9 percent). Four states had rates higher than 8 percent—Louisiana (9.6 percent), Arkansas (8.7 percent), Alaska (8.5 percent), and West Virginia (8.1 percent).

Cities

In comparison with the 25 selected central cities, the District of Columbia (with an April preliminary rate of 6.1 percent) had the eleventh lowest jobless rate. This was one notch above the March standing. In April, the average unemployment rate of all 26 cities was 6.1 percent down from 6.3 percent in March. A year ago, the average rate was 6.8 percent. There were ten cities with rates at 6 percent or below. The District at 6.1 percent was only a fraction above. Baltimore's rate at 6.6 percent was down from the 6.9 percent posted in March. In April 1988, the Baltimore rate was 7.8 percent.

Surprisingly, there were no double digit jobless rates in April. This is the third time in four months, that no double digit rates were reported. Buffalo recorded the highest jobless rate at 9.3 percent. Three other cities posted rates at 8.0 percent and above—Gary (8.0 percent), New Orleans (8.6 percent) and Detroit (8.7 percent). The lowest rates were in Boston (3.6 percent), Pittsburgh (4.0 percent), and San Francisco (4.1 percent).

Of the 26 selected central cities, seventeen reported over-the-year declines, with the largest being posted by Gary (3.6 percent) and Detroit (2.0 percent). Seven central cities reported over-the-year increases in joblessness, with the largest increases in Buffalo (3.3 percent), and New York (2.1 percent). Dallas and Birmingham jobless rates remained unchanged over the year.

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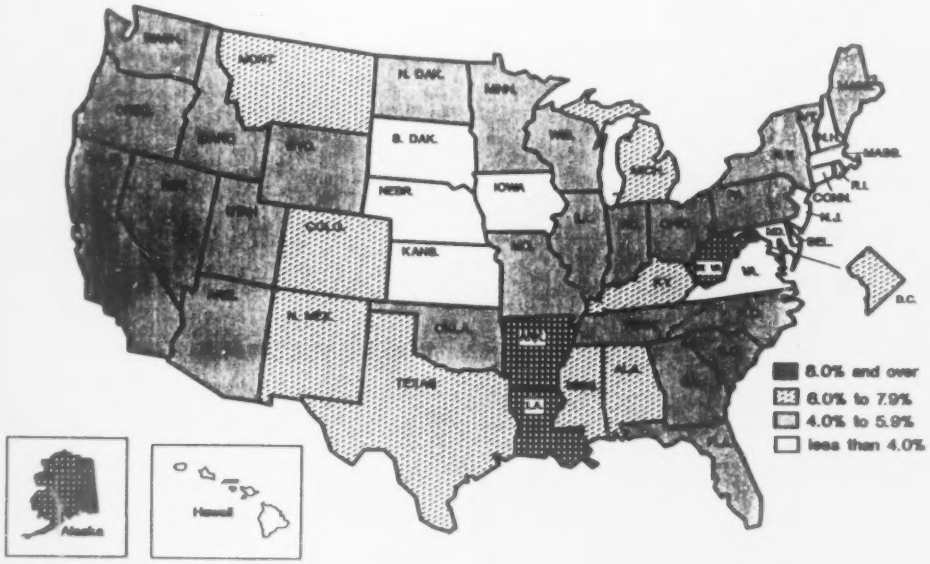
Unemployment Rates by State, April 1989



Unemployment Rates in Selected Cities*

	April	
	1989*	1988
1. Boston, MA	3.6	3.1
2. Pittsburgh, PA	4.0	5.1
3. San Francisco, CA	4.1	4.2
4. Milwaukee, WI	4.4	5.0
5. Columbus, OH	4.6	4.9
6. Philadelphia, PA	4.6	5.3
7. Los Angeles, CA	4.9	4.8
8. Cincinnati, OH	4.8	6.2
9. Salt Lake City, UT	5.4	5.6
10. New York, NY	6.0	3.9
11. District of Columbia	**6.1**	**5.2**
12. Dallas, TX	6.5	6.5
13. Houston, TX	6.6	7.2
14. Baltimore, MD	6.6	7.8
15. Dayton, OH	6.9	7.7
16. Cleveland, OH	6.9	8.6
17. Chicago, IL	6.9	8.8
18. Atlanta, GA	7.3	8.2
19. St. Louis, MO	7.3	8.3
20. Miami, FL	7.4	7.0
21. Newark, NJ	7.7	6.8
22. Birmingham, AL	7.8	7.8
23. Gary, IN	8.0	11.6
24. New Orleans, LA	8.6	9.5
25. Detroit, MI	8.7	10.7
26. Buffalo, NY	9.3	6.0

*Preliminary unemployment rates.

Unemployment Insurance Activities May 1989

There were 2,820 initial claims for unemployment compensation benefits filed and processed for former District of Columbia workers in May 1989. This amount was 9 percent above last month. In similar fashion, the idle weeks claimed were up 8 percent to 36,770. The weeks actually compensated increased 12 percent over the month. Total benefits paid amounted to $7.2 million.

Compared to May of last year, all measures increased. The initial claims for benefits rose 5 percent. The weeks claimed and weeks compensated were 12 and 16 percent, respectively, over last May. The benefit outlay soared 24 percent above last year's level. The larger relative increase in the latter was expected because of the legislated rise in the maximum benefit effective January 1989.

During the five-month period from January to May 1988, 15,960 initial claims were filed. In the same period this year, the claims dropped 6 percent to 14,980. The other primary workload factors (weeks claimed and weeks compensated) went in opposite directions. Weeks claimed dropped 1 percent to 182,260, while weeks actually compensated climbed to 175,850—3 percent higher. The average weekly benefit amount has risen from $182 to $195 during this five-month period from last year, and so has the total benefit outlay—from $31.1 million to $34.2 million. This rise is attributable to the combined effects of the increased workload and the rise in the weekly payout. The latter occurred because of the legislated increase in maximum benefit levels beginning in January 1989.

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- Resume Bank
- Labor Market Information

Department of Employment Services

Selected Unemployment Insurance Benefit Statistics
(Regular Programs)
District of Columbia
May 1989

	May 1989	Apr. 1989	May 1988	% Change From Apr. 1989	% Change From May 1988
State UI Program a/					
Initial Claims Taken	2,700	2,409	2,529	+12.1	+6.8
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	33,788	31,308	30,611	+7.9	+10.4
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	33,009	29,730	29,351	+11.0	+12.5
Total Benefits Paid	$6,417,729	$5,753,437	$5,377,576	+11.5	+19.3
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$194.42	$193.52	$183.22	+0.5	+6.1
Number of First Payments	1,402	1,313	1,368	+6.8	+2.5
Number of Final Payments	947	785	798	+20.6	+18.7
Total Beneficiaries	8,515	8,789	8,412	-3.1	+1.2
Federal Program b/					
Initial Claims Taken	83	144	110	-42.4	-24.5
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	2,656	2,415	1,912	+10.0	+38.9
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	3,220	2,701	1,807	+19.2	+78.2
Total Benefits Paid	$765,305	$628,377	$366,443	+21.8	+108.2
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$237.67	$232.65	$202.79	+2.2	+17.2
Number of First Payments	136	177	94	-23.2	+44.7
Number of Final Payments	69	63	61	+9.5	+13.1
Total Beneficiaries	806	803	525	+0.4	+53.5
Ex-Servicepersons Program c/					
Initial Claims Taken	34	35	52	-2.9	-34.6
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	328	268	459	+22.4	-28.5
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	243	203	346	+19.7	-29.8
Total Benefits Paid	$47,807	$39,676	$67,547	+20.5	-29.2
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$196.74	$195.45	$195.22	+0.7	+0.8
Number of First Payments	22	24	57	-8.3	-61.4
Number of Final Payments	10	15	15	-33.3	-33.3
Total Beneficiaries	67	69	121	-2.9	-44.6
Total—All Programs					
Initial Claims Taken	2,817	2,588	2,691	+8.8	+4.7
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	36,772	33,991	32,982	+8.2	+11.5
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	36,472	32,634	31,504	+11.8	+15.8
Total Benefits Paid	$7,230,841	$6,421,490	$5,811,566	+12.6	+24.4
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$198.26	$196.77	$184.47	+0.8	+7.5
Number of First Payments	1,560	1,514	1,519	+3.0	+2.7
Number of Final Payments	1,026	863	874	+18.9	+17.4
Total Beneficiaries	9,388	9,661	9.058	-2.8	+3.6

a. Includes joint claims with Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE), and/or Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicepersons (UCX).

b. Includes joint claims with Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicepersons (UCX).

c. No joint claims.

The Washington, D.C. Area Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Statistical Area rose 0.8 percent during the 2-months ended in May to a level of 127.1 (1982-84=100). For the 12-month period in May, the CPI-U rose 5.8 percent.

The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) rose 0.8 percent from March to May. The May level of 126.6 (1982-84=100) was 6.1 percent higher than the index in May 1988.

The 0.8 percent increase in the CPI-U from March to May follows an increase of 1.4 percent in the 2 months ended in March. Food prices continued to advance and gasoline prices turned up sharply. However, smaller increases were recorded for the apparel and housing components.

The index for food and beverages increased 1.7 percent during the 2 months ended in May. The costs of grocery store foods rose 2.4 percent, reflecting higher prices for poultry, fresh vegetables, and beef. Prices of food consumed away from home rose 0.6 percent, while prices for alcoholic beverages jumped 1.8 percent.

Transportation costs rose 1.3 percent from March to May. Motor fuel prices jumped 8.0 percent, overshadowing a 0.7 percent price decline for new vehicles.

The index for apparel and upkeep rose 0.1 percent between March and May, following an increase of 8.5 percent in the preceding 2-months, a period coinciding with the introduction of spring and summer clothing.

Housing costs rose 0.4 percent from March to May, compared with an increase of 1.4 percent from January to March. Shelter costs continued to advance—up 1.0 percent in the past 2 months—but this increase was partially offset by a 3.6 percent decline in household fuel costs.

Among other categories of consumer spending, medical care costs, reflecting higher costs for professional services and hospital services, rose 0.9 percent. Entertainment costs rose 0.2 percent.

Comparing the local CPI—U with the U.S. city average, the only component for which price increases were higher locally than nationally was food and beverages. Housing, medical care, and other goods and services were just about equal. But price increases were much higher nationally for apparel and upkeep, transportation, and entertainment. The largest difference was in energy where the national increase over the two-month period was 8.5 percent compared to 2.3 percent locally.

Mayor Barry Presents Incentive Awards for Job Training

Mayor Marion Barry, Jr. on July 20, 1989, presented incentive awards grants totalling $50,000 to five local organizations providing training and job placement for hard-to-employ District residents.

The monetary awards of $10,000 each recognized five training providers under Department of Employment Services whose performance exceeded standards for serving the hard-to-employ.

The five award recipients, were: The D.C. Association for Retarded Citizens (for the Handicapped individuals); Southeast Vicariate Cluster (for Youth); Woodrow Wilson International Center (for Non-English Speaking); and the Liberation of Ex-Offenders through Employment Opportunities (for Ex-Offenders). The Masonry Institute, which trains the disadvantaged in a broad range of occupations, received the Department's special award as "Best Overall Performer."

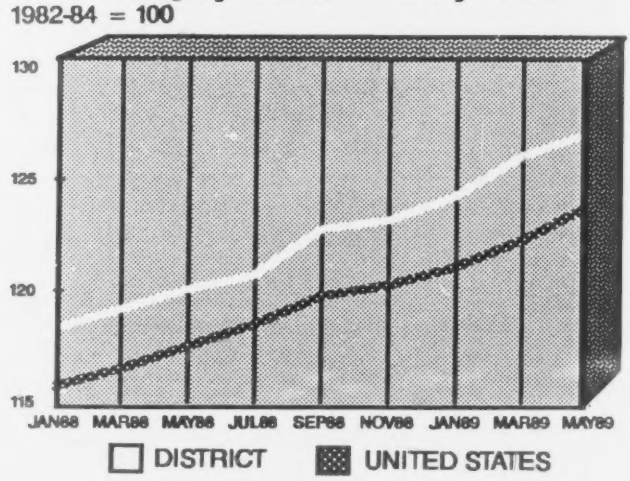
Washington, D.C.
Area Consumer Price Index
(All Urban Consumers—CPI-U)[a/]

	May 1989	Percent Change 2 months Ago	Percent Change Year Ago
All Items			
U.S.	123.8	+1.2	+5.4
Washington Area	127.1	+0.8	+5.8
Expenditure Category			
Food & Beverage	126.5	+1.7	+7.3
Housing	128.1	+0.4	+4.7
Apparel & Upkeep	135.7	+0.1	+11.0
Transportation	113.8	+1.3	+5.9
Medical Care	145.4	+0.9	+5.9
Entertainment	126.2	+0.2	-1.0
Other Goods & Services	148.4	+0.9	+9.6
Special Index:			
Energyb/	93.1	+2.3	+11.0

a/ 1982-84=100, except as noted.
b/ June 1978=100

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, table prepared by the Department of Employment Services, Labor Market Information and Research Staff.

Consumer Price Index
United States and District
January 1988 - May 1989



Hours and Earnings in Manufacturing

Total Manufacturing Average Weekly Earnings in the Metropolitan Area for May 1989 decreased $9.45. Average Weekly Hours dropped .7 hour, as Average Hourly Earnings went down 3 cents.

In the Durable Goods Sector, Stone, Clay and Glass Products reflects a decrease in Weekly Earnings of $91.95. Weekly Hours were down 5.9 hours. Hourly Earnings decreased 55 cents, all due to complete or partial shutdown or layoffs because of fire, flood, storm, unfavorable weather, or other accidents or natural phenomena.

In the Non-Durable Goods Sector, Food and Kindred Products had a wage rate increase. Weekly Earnings increased $21.04, with Hourly Earnings rising 48 cents. Weekly Hours were up .1 hour. Printing and Publishing reflects a drop in Weekly Earnings of $6.97. Weekly Hours decreased .2 hour and Hourly Earnings decreased 12 cents. The across-the-board decline was due to less overtime being worked.

Earnings of Production Workers in Manufacturing
Washington Metropolitan Area
May 1989

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	May 1989	Apr. 1989	May 1988	May 1989	Apr. 1989	May 1988	May 1989	Apr. 1989	May 1988
Total Manufacturing	464.13	473.58	434.95	39.4	40.1	38.8	11.78	11.81	11.21
Durable Goods	476.94	493.06	434.93	41.8	43.1	40.8	11.41	11.44	10.66
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	467.04	558.99	531.65	42.0	47.9	48.2	11.12	11.67	11.03
Electric Machinery, Equipment & Supplies	510.43	507.53	428.27	40.9	40.7	37.9	12.48	12.47	11.30
Other Durable Goods	462.68	470.42	414.91	42.1	43.0	40.4	10.99	10.94	10.27
Non-Durable Goods	454.88	458.06	433.64	37.5	37.7	37.0	12.13	12.15	11.72
Food & Kindred Products	447.86	426.82	431.24	41.7	41.6	39.6	10.74	10.26	10.89
Printing & Publishing	472.32	479.29	462.27	36.0	36.2	35.1	13.12	13.24	13.17
Other Non-Durable Goods	384.61	388.23	335.81	41.4	41.7	42.4	9.29	9.31	7.92
Total Production Workers		May '89 42,300			Apr. '89 42,300			May '88 43,200	

Note: Data reflects Revision to 1988 Benchmark.

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Department of Employment Services
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District of Columbia
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DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MARION BARRY JR., MAYOR

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METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C.

AREA LABOR SUMMARY

THE D.C. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

DATA FOR JUNE 1989 AUGUST 1989

June Jobless Rate Drops To 5.3%

Area Jobs Outpacing U.S. Jobs

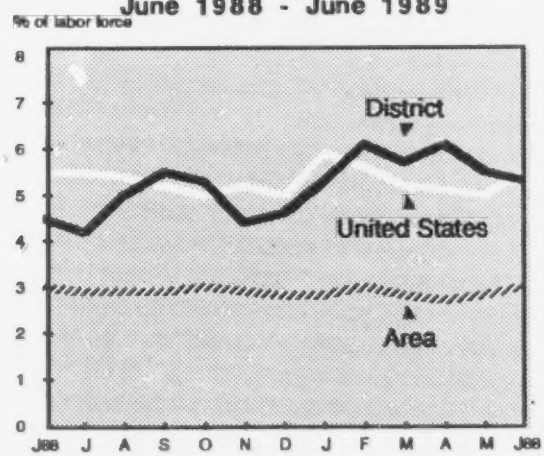
Labor Force

The District

The unemployment rate in the District declined from 5.5 percent in May to 5.3 percent in June. On the other hand, joblessness among suburbanites increased from 2.3 percent in May to 2.6 percent in June. As a result of the offsetting movements in the District and the suburbs, the unemployment rate for the Washington Area increased from 2.8 percent in May to 3.0 in June. The unemployment rate (unadjusted) for all American workers in June was 5.5 percent, up from 5.0 percent in May.

During June, the District's labor force grew by 8,200 new workers reflecting a seasonal increase in summer workers. The size of this increase was comparable to that of the past few years. The number of jobs held by District residents increased by 8,500 or slightly more than the labor force. Thus, the City's unemployment rolls declined marginally by 400 workers and the rate dropped two-tenths of a percentage point to 5.3 percent.

Unemployment Rates
June 1988 - June 1989

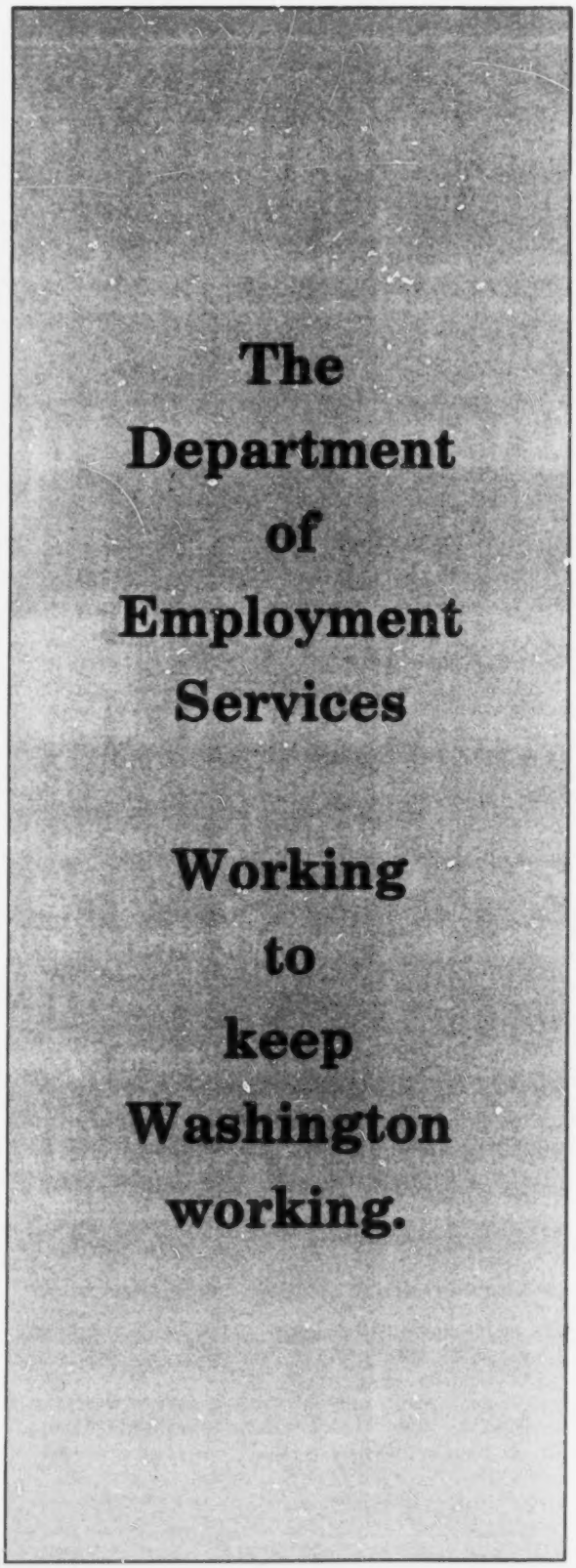


Over the year, however, the labor force status of District residents has changed. Compared to June 1988, there were 2,100 more jobless residents. More significantly, there are 11,100 fewer people with jobs and 9,000 fewer people in the labor force. As a result, the City's unemployment rate is up nearly a percentage point (0.8). For the first six months of the year, the District's jobless rate has averaged 5.7 percent vs. 5.3 percent for

Continued on page 3

Government of the District of Columbia
Marion Barry, Jr., Mayor

Department of Employment Services
F. Alexis H. Roberson
Director



METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C.

AREA LABOR SUMMARY

THE D.C. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

DATA FOR JUNE 1989 AUGUST 1989

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The *Area Labor Summary* is published monthly by the D.C. Department of Employment Services, 500 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. The Labor Market Information and Research Staff (Richard Groner, Chief) prepares the *Summary*. The following staff members have contributed to the publication and development of data herein: Charles Roeslin, Rufus Daniels, Eileen Dent, Nancy Anderson-Grant, Elsie Taylor, and Gwendolyn Thompson; and administrative support was provided by Robin McDonald.

Inquiries and requests for labor market information may be obtained by writing to the above address, or by calling: (202) 639-1641 or 639-1642.